

MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS STATISTICS.

(Issued by the Government Statistician, Mr. T. Waites).

SECTION A. - RAINFALL & PRODUCTION.(1) RAINFALL IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

Index showing Weighted Average Ratio of Actual to Normal Rainfall.

(Normal rainfall means the average over a long period of years).

Normal rainfall for each month = 100.

Month (1931)	Sheep Districts.	Wheat Districts.	Dairying Districts.
January	55	69	48
February	37	37	181
March	255	270	123
April	210	204	215

(Compiled from reports supplied by Commonwealth Meteorologist).

Following on generally dry conditions in sheep and wheat districts during January and February, bountiful rains fell in almost every district in March and April. These rains were in every case more than twice the normal and have created a most promising seasonal outlook. In the dairying districts the average rainfall for the months of February, March and April has been well above normal and the output of butter for March, 1931, was greater than for the same month in any of the previous five seasons.

(2) PRIMARY PRODUCTION.(a) WOOL:

The total production of wool in New South Wales for the season ended 30th. June, 1931, is estimated at 430,000,000 lb. greasy, or approximately 30,000,000 lb. less than last year.

Sydney wool sales this season are much further advanced than at this date last season. In the ten months ended 30th. April, 1931, 985,564 bales had been sold in Sydney as compared with 830,234 bales in the corresponding period last year. There remained in store at 30th April, 1931, about 36,000 bales of the current clip awaiting disposal at the clearing up sales in June. Arrivals of wool from the country in the months of May and June are relatively small.

The new season's sales in Sydney will commence at the end of August, and the next London series will open on 7th. July.

SYDNEY WOOL SALES.

Month of	Number of bales sold.			Amount realised for wool sold.		
	1929.	1930.	1931.	1929.	1930.	1931.
				£	£	£
January	138,314	99,715	117,022	3,129,820	1,294,508	1,098,667
February	129,463	144,718	181,824	2,762,640	1,728,739	2,138,391
March	159,906	87,694	134,472	3,375,461	1,031,978	1,908,022
April	98,430	55,329	71,016	1,970,445	717,199	880,901
Ten months ended 30th. April.	1,070,140	830,234	985,564	23,836,611	11,329,365	11,249,609

NUMBER OF BALES UNSOLD.

In store, 30th. April (current clip).	73,423	249,001	36,000	.	.	.
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(Source - Sydney Wool Selling Brokers' Association)

(b) WHEAT:

The final estimate of the wheat harvest of New South Wales for 1930-31 is 65,811,000 bushels - the largest crop gathered in New South Wales since the year 1915-16. It is nearly twice the size of the harvest of last year, and about 26,000,000 bushels greater than the average crop gathered in the State.

Including carry-over and deducting wheat despatched interstate, the surplus exportable overseas direct from New South Wales (either as wheat or flour) in the current season is in the vicinity of 48,000,000 bushels.

Disposal of wheat has been unusually rapid this season. One half of this exportable surplus, or 24,130,000 bushels, was exported overseas direct from the State between 1st. December, 1930, and 30th. April, 1931, viz., 20,555,000 bushels of grain and 75,070 tons of flour.

VALUE OF WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTED OVERSEA FROM N.S.W.

Month.	1928-29.	1929-30.	1930-31.
	£	£	£
December	1,148,769	187,388	487,866
January	1,205,737	132,541	432,109
February	792,665	126,663	447,882
March	939,311	135,683	923,968
April	629,901	120,272	525,948
Five months	4,716,383	702,547	2,817,773

(c) BUTTER:

The production of butter (in factories) in New South Wales for the nine months ended 31st. March, 1931, was 81,645,937 lb. as compared with 78,118,686 lb. for the corresponding period last year - an increase of 3,527,251 lb. or 4.5 per cent.

Month.	Output of Butter.		Value of Butter exported (New South Wales).	
	1930.	1931.	1930.	1931.
	lb.	lb.	£	£
January	11,256,703	9,912,639	219,763	144,211
February	11,226,810	10,662,140	281,416	230,461
March	11,621,689	12,384,094	165,806	313,396
April	9,604,033	.	73,431	235,051
Four months	43,709,235	.	740,416	923,119

(d) COAL:

COAL HAULED FROM COLLIERIES BY N.S.W. GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS.

	January	February	March	Total (three months)
	tons	tons	tons	tons
1928	546,533	502,801	522,006	1,571,340
1931	296,226	336,764	366,620	999,610

These figures exclude coal used by the Railway Department and coal shipped or used in N.S.W. without being hauled over Government railways, but they indicate the trend of activity in the industry.

The low figure for January, 1931, was preceded by a decline between October and December 1930. Preliminary advices indicate further improvement since March.

(3) MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY: An endeavour is being made to obtain data as to monthly factory output.

(4) BUILDING INDUSTRY:

PERMITS TO ERECT NEW BUILDINGS.

	Month of March.			Three months ended 31st. March.				
	City No.	Suburbs		City No.	Suburbs.		Country Municip- alities.	
		No.	Value of Buildings		No.	Value of Buildings	No.	Value of Buildings
			£			£		£
1929	7	780	952,711	19	2,237	2,513,753	1,133	878,021
1930	4	248	293,240	21	932	1,033,059	764	625,395
1931	2	60	55,930	2	191	171,375	293 ^x	172,168 ^x

^x Incomplete.

Figures as to permits to erect new buildings should show in advance the trend in the building industry. The figures for March are a little below the totals for recent months.

SECTION B. - TRADE AND SHIPPING.

(5) VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE -

To and from New South Wales direct Oversea.

	Month of April			Ten months ended 30th. April.		
	Imports.	Exports ^x	Excess of Exports ^x	Imports	Exports ^x	Excess of Exports. ^x
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1929	5,223,962	3,391,601	(-) 1,832,361	52,900,439	43,445,578	(-) 9,454,861
1930	3,863,456	1,900,106	(-) 1,963,350	50,191,601	26,389,375	(-) 23,802,226
1931	1,253,471	2,489,440	@ 1,235,969	23,067,647	26,520,807	@ 3,453,160

(-) Denotes excess of Imports.

@ See notes below.

^x Excluding gold specie as follows:-

	1929.	1930.	1931.
	£	£	£
Month of April	.	256,000	.
Ten months ended 30th. April	136,994	3,698,800	41,056

Imports in April, 1931, were unusually small and, on account of the rapid disposals of wool and wheat, exports were unusually large. As the value of imports was recorded (broadly speaking) in English pounds and the value of exports in Australian pounds, the excess of exports for April is overstated by probably £500,000 or more. The excess of exports for the period of ten months ended 30th. April 1931, is also overstated, but the extent is more difficult to calculate owing to fluctuations in exchange.

/(6) TONNAGE.

(6) TONNAGE OF CARGO DISCHARGED AND SHIPPED - ALL PORTS OF N.S.W.

Quarter ended 31st. March -	Discharged.			Shipped.		
	Oversea	Interstate	Total	Oversea	Interstate	Total
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
1929	589,764	402,879	992,643	718,108	542,497	1,260,605
1930	525,068	349,136	874,204	203,662	546,638	750,300
1931	272,258	230,518	502,776	618,220	473,754	1,091,974

Inwards cargo shows a marked decrease both from interstate and overseas ports. Outwards cargo overseas shows a marked expansion compared with the position a year ago, although interstate cargo outwards has declined. The rapid movement of wool and wheat this season coupled with the large volume of wheat is reflected in the increase in overseas shipments.

(7) Wholesale and Retail Trade: Efforts are being made to obtain data as to the volume of wholesale and retail business.

SECTION C. TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC.

(8) RAILWAYS:

NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAYS REVENUE AND BUSINESS.

	Month of March.			Three months ended 31st March.		
	Gross Revenue	Net Goods Ton-Mileage	Passenger Journeys.	Gross Revenue	Net Goods, Ton-Mileage	Passenger Journeys.
	£	thousands	thousands	£	thousands	thousands
1929	1,566,677	146,165	12,906	4,874,495	453,839	37,170
1930	1,363,158	128,320	12,737	4,311,254	372,940	36,491
1931	1,180,134	138,330	10,743	3,747,818	388,931	30,683

Net goods ton-mileage represents the weight of goods times the distance (miles) carried. The number of passenger journeys does not show the full contraction in passenger traffic, as there is evidence of a slightly greater contraction in passenger mileage (i.e., number of passengers times the distance (miles) carried.) The latest passenger mileage figures were 114,052,000 in February, 1931, as compared with 137,750,000 in February, 1930.

(9) TRAMWAYS:

N.S.W. Government Tramways Earnings and Passengers carried.

Three months ended -	Sydney & Suburbs.		Newcastle & Suburbs.	
	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.	Passengers carried.	Excess of Revenue over Working Expenses.	Passengers carried.
	£	Thousands	£	Thousands
31/12/1930	20,451	67,700	(-) 13,098	3,179
31/3/1931	14,208	66,721	(-) 15,753	4,172

(-) denotes excess of working expenses over revenue.

(10) MOTOR VEHICLES:

NUMBER OF REGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLES (N.S.W.)

Class of Motor Vehicle.	30th. April 1931.	31st, March.		
		1931.	1930.	1929.
Cars	156,580	158,833	171,492	158,864
Lorries	40,552	41,088	43,371	38,180
Cycles	25,938	26,345	30,198	31,028

DECREASE.

	<u>Cars.</u>	<u>Lorries.</u>	<u>Cycles.</u>
Month of April, 1931	2,253	536	407
Three months ended 31st. March, 1931	5,336	1,190	913

The decline in the number of all three classes of motor vehicles registered was greater in April, 1931, than the average for the preceding three months.

(11) MOTOR OMNIBUS TRAFFIC: Quarterly statistics are being obtained.

SECTION D. - FINANCIAL.

(12) TRADING BANKS: ADVANCES AND DEPOSITS (N.S.W.):

TOTAL (including Commonwealth and Rural Banks and including Government Business).

March Quarter	Deposits	Advances etc. and Government Securities	Excess of Deposits over Advances etc.
	Thousand £	Thousands £	Thousand £
1929	134,855	138,085	(-) 3,230
1930	130,247	152,103	(-) 21,856
1931	124,295	139,374	(-) 15,079

(-) Denotes excess of advances.

(13) Private Business in Private Banks (N.S.W.)

(Excluding Commonwealth and Rural Banks and excluding Government Deposits and Government Securities in private trading banks.)

March Quarter	Deposits			Advances, etc.	Excess of Deposits over Advances.
	Bearing Interest	Not bearing Interest	Total		
	Thousand £	Thousand £	Thousand £	Thousand £	Thousand £
1929	62,081	49,185	111,266	98,358	12,908
1930	64,145	42,426	106,571	110,681	(-) 4,110
1931	65,408	36,730	102,138	100,101	2,037

There has been a steady decline of deposits, but the ratio of advances to deposits has improved slightly in March Quarter 1931.

/(14) Inter-Bank.....

(14) INTER-BANK CLEARINGS (SYDNEY).

(Value of cheques drawn on a bank other than the bank in which they were deposited).

	Month of April.	Four months ended 30th. April.
	£	£
1929	89,691,502	353,817,190
1930	68,572,063	306,052,875
1931	76,173,583	314,501,292

(Note: These figures include net balances from country centres and represent probably about one-half of the total transactions settled by cheques. They are a general indicator of the volume of business.)

The improvement in 1931 is, doubtless, mainly due to the more rapid disposal of wool and wheat.

(15) REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS (N.S.W.)

(Compiled from records of Registrar General).

	Month of April.		Four months ended 30th April	
	Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages	Consideration of Sales.	Amount of Mortgages
	£	£	£	£
1930	2,596,755	3,518,947	11,907,166	15,389,330
1931	1,030,179	1,888,950	4,666,203	7,755,289

Transactions in the month of April, 1931, were appreciably smaller than the average for the preceding three months. The amount of considerations of sales is approximately 40 per cent., and the amount of mortgages approximately 50 per cent. of the corresponding figures for last year. This is partly due to a lower level of values.

(16) LIENS ON CROPS AND WOOL AND MORTGAGES ON LIVE STOCK (N.S.W.)

(Compiled from Records of Registrar General).

	Month of April.			Four months ended 30th. April.		
	Crops	Wool	Livestock	Crops	Wool.	Livestock.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1930	642,226	297,222	236,108	2,337,871	940,733	937,846
1931	684,361	772,503	271,176	2,783,976	1,805,177	1,194,136

Despite the lower level of values, the amounts involved in liens were in all cases very much greater in 1931 than in 1930. The total for April, 1931 was £1,728,000 as compared with £1,175,000 in April 1930; and £5,783,000 for the first four months of 1931 compared with £4,217,000 for the same period last year.

The numbers involved in liens and mortgages registered during the four months ended 30th. April were:-

Four months ended 30th. April.	Number of Crop Liens	Number of Sheep subject to Liens on Wool. ^x	Number of Livestock under Mortgage.		
			Sheep ^x	Cattle	Horses.
1930	6,219	2,607,160	2,124,868	27,518	5,285
1931	6,351	5,158,474	4,181,643	44,702	10,645

^x In many cases sheep are included under both headings.

As particulars of duration and discharges of liens and mortgages are not available, it is not possible to state the amount current nor the number of crops and livestock subject to liens and mortgages at any given date.

(17) BANKRUPTCIES:

Sequestrations and Deeds of Arrangement (Part XII) N.S.W.

Year.	Month of April		Four months ended 30th April.	
	Number	Liabilities	Number	Liabilities.
		£		£
1930	113	284,567	321	560,901
1931	122	265,013	495	915,391

Although there has been a large increase in bankruptcies during the current year to date the transactions for April, 1931, were approximately of the same extent as in April, 1930.

SECTION E. GENERAL.

(18) UNEMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

	Month of March (a)	Middle of Quarter ended 31st. March (b)
	Number	Per cent.
1929	26,000	9.7
1930	45,000	16.3
1931	110,000	29.2

February, 1931.

December Quarter, 1930.

100,000

26.3

(a) Estimate as at end of month by Director of State Labour Exchange - representing approximate total number unemployed.

(b) Estimate by Commonwealth Statistician representing proportion of unemployed members to total membership in unions reporting.

(19) AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF WAGES PAID AND INDEX OF EMPLOYMENT - Data are being sought under these headings.

(20) POPULATION, MIGRATION AND MARRIAGE RATE (N.S.W.)

Three months ended 31st March.	Total Increase in Population during Quarter	Net migration during quarter.		Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths.)	Marriages.	
		Interstate	Overseas		Number	Rate per 1000 of Population.
1929	11,847	(÷) 3,742	(÷) 411	7,694	4,699	7.68
1930	6,052	(÷) 498	(-) 2,215	7,769	4,813	7.77
1931 ^x	4,098	(-) 957	(-) 2,549	7,604	3,840	6.13

(÷) denotes net immigration; (-) denotes net emigration.

^x Preliminary figures subject to revision.

These figures indicate an increase in emigration both interstate and overseas. The number of marriages and the marriage rate is generally considered to be a reflex of economic conditions in the State.

(21) PRICES OF METALS.

Average Monthly Spot Prices of Metals (London Exchange).

Date.	Silver (Standard)	Lead	Spelter	Tin (Standard)	Copper (Standard)
	per oz.	per ton	per ton	per ton	per ton.
	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1930 - April	1 7.55	18 6 10	18 2 0	162 14 8	62 3 3
1931 - January	1 1.81	13 17 9	12 18 7	115 17 7	44 19 7
February	1 0.43	13 9 11	12 10 0	118 0 1	45 8 4
March	1 1.52	13 4 10	12 8 8	121 18 5	44 17 2
April	1 1.12	12 9 10	11 11 11	112 16 9	42 14 8
May 15th	1 1.06	11 10 0	10 16 3	105 8 9	39 8 9

After some signs of stability and even recovery in February and March, there was a marked decline in April, which continued into the current month.

(22) STOCK EXCHANGE INDEX. An index of the prices of industrial shares on Sydney Stock Exchange is in course of compilation.

(23) CONSUMPTION OF GAS AND ELECTRICITY. Data are being sought.

N o t i c e.

This summary will be issued in future as a printed document as soon as practicable after 20th. of each month. The subscription for twelve months will be 3s. (posted), payable to the Government Printer, Phillip Street, Sydney, or 3d. per single copy from the Government Printing Office.

As space will not permit of repetition of matter, copies should be filed for reference.

Recent comparative statistics in greater detail and for longer periods are published in the Quarterly Statistical Bulletin, which is available from the Government Printer.

BUREAU OF STATISTICS,

SYDNEY, 25th. May, 1931.